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3. (Amended) The hand-held cutting tool as claimed in Claim 8 wherein said sharp surfaces are serrated.

Add the following new claim.

8. A hand-held cutting tool for cutting a fiber optic cable having an optical fiber surrounded by at least one protective layer comprising:

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first and second cutting members pivotably attached to one another about a pivot axis to allow for pivotable movement of the cutting members between an opened position and a closed position, the first and second cutting members each including a cutting edge which has a blunt surface and a sharp surface with the blunt surfaces being configured differently from the sharp surfaces, the cutting edges lying in adjacent parallel planes with the cutting edges in facing relation, at least a portion of each blunt surface being spaced a distance from the pivot axis which is sufficient to allow a fiber optic cable to be engageable with the blunt surfaces when the cutting members move from the open position to the closed position on a fiber optic cable placed between the cutting members.

REMARKS

This Amendment accompanies a Request for Continued Examination. Claim 1 has been replaced by new claim 8. Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to depend on new claim 8.

Claim 8 now specifies that the blunt surfaces are spaced a distance from the pivot axis which is sufficient to allow a fiber optic cable to be engageable with the blunt surfaces when the cutting members close on a fiber optic cable placed between the cutting members. This structure differs from Gunson 4,048,721 for the following reasons.